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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/711,457
Filed: September 20, 2004
Group Art Unit: 3612
Examiner: Gregory A. Blankenship
Applicant: Emerling et al.
Title: MOLDED AUTOMOTIVE VISOR
Attorney Docket: MASL-51
Confirmation No.: 5456

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

May 2, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed January 27, 2006, please amend the
application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on
page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 10, 13 and 16, as follows.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An automotive visor, comprising:
a core member having an outer surface;
a polymeric cover layer integrally ~~molded~~ formed in place onto said outer surface
of said core member; and
a support arm coupled to said core member and adapted to mount the visor
proximate a windshield of an automobile.
2. (ORIGINAL) The visor of claim 1, wherein said core member is formed from
polymeric material having a hardness that is relatively higher than a hardness of said
cover layer.
3. (ORIGINAL) The visor of claim 1, wherein said core member comprises first and
second sections joined together in a confronting arrangement.
4. (ORIGINAL) The visor of claim 3, wherein said first and second sections are
hingedly coupled together for folding toward said confronting arrangement.
5. (ORIGINAL) The visor of claim 1, wherein said cover layer substantially
encapsulates said core member.

6. (ORIGINAL) The visor of claim 1, wherein said cover layer is integrally molded on selected areas of said outer surface.
7. (ORIGINAL) The visor of claim 1, wherein said cover layer is textured to simulate fabric material.
8. (ORIGINAL) The visor of claim 1, further comprising an accessory affixed to said core member and integrally molded with said cover layer.
9. (ORIGINAL) The visor of claim 8, wherein said accessory is a mirror.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of forming an automotive visor, comprising:
forming a visor core from a polymeric material having a first hardness;
integrally ~~molding~~ forming a cover layer in place on an outer surface of the visor core, the cover layer comprising polymeric material having a second hardness relatively lower than the first hardness; and
coupling a support arm to the visor core, the support arm adapted to mount the visor proximate a windshield of an automobile.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 10, wherein forming the visor core further comprises:

forming first and second core sections, each core section having an inner surface;

arranging the first and second core sections such that the inner surfaces face one another in a confronting relationship; and

securing the first and second core sections together.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 10, wherein forming the cover layer further comprises substantially encapsulating the visor core.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 10, wherein integrally ~~molding~~ forming the cover layer further comprises applying polymeric material having the second hardness to selected areas of the outer surface.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

integrally molding an accessory onto the visor with the cover layer.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14, wherein the accessory comprises a mirror.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of forming an automotive visor,
comprising:

providing a visor core;

integrally ~~molding~~ forming a polymeric cover layer in place on an outer surface of
the visor core; and

coupling a support arm to the visor core, the support arm adapted to mount the
visor proximate a windshield of an automobile.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

integrally molding an accessory onto the visor with the cover layer.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 17, wherein the accessory comprises a mirror.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed January 27, 2006. Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application and stand rejected.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner, Greg Blankenship, for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview with Applicants' representative, David W. Dorton, on April 19, 2006. During the interview, the pending claims were discussed with respect to the references of record. Specifically, Applicants' representative pointed out that the claimed invention is directed to an automotive visor wherein a polymeric cover layer is formed in place onto the outer surface of the core member. In contrast, British Patent Application GB 2 336 577 to Fischer, as well as other references of record, are directed to automotive visors made by placing a separate cover material into a cavity of a mold and thereafter transferring polymeric material into the mold cavity to form a core member that becomes joined to the cover material.

Applicants' representative proposed amendments to the claims that would more sharply define this distinction between the claimed invention and the references of record. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments should overcome the references of record, pending further search with respect to non-obviousness, as noted in the Interview Summary. The claims have now been amended in accordance with the interview. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendments to the claims and the telephone interview.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for informalities related to claim language. Applicants believe that the claim amendments herein resolve any issues under 35 U.S.C. §112, and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 1-7, 10-13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.K. Patent Application GB 2 336 577 to Fischer et al. Claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer '577 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,720,509 to Binish. Claims 1, 10 and 16 are the only independent claims of these rejected groups. Claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended herein in accordance with the Interview Summary. Specifically, each of claims 1, 10 and 16, as amended, recites that a polymeric cover layer is integrally formed in place onto an outer surface of a core member.

Applicants assert that amended claims 1, 10 and 16 are in condition for allowance because the references of record fail to teach or suggest an automotive visor having a polymeric cover layer integrally formed in place onto an outer surface of a core member as recited in the amended claims. Rather, Fischer '577 is directed to an automotive visor wherein an exterior fabric material 54 is positioned in a mold cavity 124 and polymeric beads are then introduced into the mold cavity so that the cover fabric 54 is bonded to the polymeric material. (See Fischer '577 at p. 9, line 1 through p. 10, line 18.) Similarly, Binish '509 is directed to an automotive visor wherein fabric panels 23,

43 are placed into a mold prior to injecting polymeric material between the fabric panels. (See Binish '509 at col. 3, lines 39-65.) None of the other references of record teaches or suggests a modification of Fischer '577 that cures these deficiencies. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-18 based on Fischer '577, either alone or in combination with Binish '509, be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 depend from independent claim 1, claims 11-15 depend from independent claim 10, and claims 17 and 18 depend from independent claim 16. Accordingly, claims 2-9, 11-15, 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above for their respective independent claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections of 2-9, 11-15, 17 and 18 over Fischer '577 in view of Binish '509 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any issue requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants are of the opinion that a fee of \$120 is due as a result of this communication. However, if any fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Application No. 10/711,457
Amendment dated May 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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